12th March 1955]

"(b) A load survey of Kottakkal, Malappuram, Manjeri and Perintalmanna villages was conducted as early as in 1950 but it was not found possible to evolve a remunerative extension proposal as per departmental standards till recently."

SRI K. KUNHI MOHAMED SHAFEE :—" May I know the order of priority assigned to the scheme of extension of electricity to the villages mentioned in the answer of the Hon. Minister and when the scheme will materialise, whether in one year or in two years? "

THE HON. SRI R. SHANMUGA RAJESWARA SETHUPATHI :—" A separate question may be put. But the proposal is under consideration now."

Use of charcoal gas in motor vehicles.

* 1309 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state why the use of charcoal gas by motor vehicles has not been banned?

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" There is no need to prohibit producer gas-driven vehicles by any rule or regulation. The number of such vehicles has gone down considerably in recent years and producer gas-driven motor vehicles may disappear altogether in course of time. It is not also legally possible to prohibit producer gas-driven vehicles under the existing law."

SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—" Is the Hon. Minister aware that the use of charcoal gas is depriving the Government of income under petrol causing denudation of precious forests, inconveniencing and irritating to the travelling public breaking the health of the drivers and conductors; and for all these reasons of paramount public importance, will the Hon. the Minister introduce legislation at least to control the remaining vehicles? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—"As I said, from 1951 to 1954 nearly 3,700 vehicles have been rendered useless. The operators themselves do not want to run those buses. Therefore, in view of the present supply position with regard to petrol, there is not likely to be many gas plant vehicles running. In view of this there is no need for any legislation at all."

Minor irrigation works.

* 1310 Q.—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Revenue be pleased to state why minor irrigation works have been transferred from the Revenue Department to the Public Works Department?

[12th March 1955

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" The question whether the maintenance of Minor Irrigation Works should be with the Public Works Department or with the Revenue Department has been the subject of controversy for nearly a century. The question was revived in 1946 by the then Ministry as there had been for some time previously several representations from the ryots of the State that Minor Irrigation Works should be entrusted to the Public Works Department. In view of these representations and in order to have a unified control over irrigation works, the Government examined the question and decided that the proposal might be tried as an experiment in the Chingleput district, where sources connected irrigation system could be transferred from the charge of the Revenue Department to that of the Public Works Department. The Government accordingly directed that 249 minor irrigation works in the Kancheepuram basin and 234 such works in the Chingleput basin lying to the north of the river Palar in the Chingleput district be transferred from the charge of the Revenue Department to that of the Public Works Department. They were however retransferred to the Revenue Department in 1952 after a careful examination of the results of the experiment. Only eight minor irrigation sources formerly of Saidapet taluk now lying in Madras City limits have been transferred from the control of the Revenue Department to that of the Public Works in 1953 as the Madras Collector has no Minor Irrigation staff."

SRI S. THINAKARASAMI THEVAR :—" May I know whether the fact that the Revenue Department people have not got the technical qualification of supervision and check-measurement with regard to repairs to minor irrigation tanks is the only reason for transferring these minor irrigation to the Public Works Department? "

THE HON. SRI M. A. MANICKAVELU :—" Now, it is re-transferred to the Revenue Department."

Panchayat Board, Nellikuppam.

* 1286 *Q.*—SRI A. RATNAM : Will the Hon. the Minister for Local Administration be pleased to state whether the Government received any representation in December 1954, from the members of the Nellikuppam Panchayat Board, South Arcot district, regarding the irregularities in the Panchayat Board, Nellikuppam?

THE HON. SRI S. S. RAMASAMY PADAYACHI :—" Yes, Sir."